CLAIMS

1.   A picture coding method for transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, which method uses motion estimation coding and divides the picture into a plurality of segments made up of macroblocks, wherein, at least for an edge block of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein, for an edge macroblock of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent macroblock of the adjacent segment.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the top edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the right-hand edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein each segment is made up of two groups of blocks.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the error rate is greater than 10^{-6}, or even greater than 10^{-4}.

7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission rate is less than 100 kbit/s.

8.   A coder implementing the method of claim 1.

9.   A transmission system using a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, the system including a coder according to claim 8.